AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 21 to read as follows.

1. (Canceled)

2. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 16, wherein said specific image type is a photographic image.

3. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 16, further comprising:

an outputting step for outputting the developed image outputted in said reacquiring step to an image formation unit;

wherein said image processing method is executed by a printer driver; and

said rendering command is inputted from an operating system.

4-15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) An image processing method for developing an image indicated by a rendering command of an input image in a memory for each predetermined region of the input image and thereby generating an output image, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a rendering command indicating an object image;

analyzing the rendering command and determining whether the object image is of a specific image type or not;

developing an image corresponding to the rendering command in the memory, acquiring a next rendering command, and carrying out said determination on the next rendering command when it is determined that the object image is not of the specific image type;

acquiring a color distribution of the object image when it is determined that the object image is of the specific image type;

carrying out said acquisition of the rendering command, said determination of whether the object image is of the specific image type, and said development of the image corresponding to the rendering command for each predetermined region when it is determined that the object image is not of the specific image type and carrying out said acquisition of the color distribution for each predetermined region when it is determined that the object image is of the specific image type;

outputting the developed image which is developed in the memory when there is no object image of the specific image type in the predetermined region, and

reacquiring the rendering command indicating the object image in the predetermined region, carrying out an image correction process on the object image of the specific image type according to the acquired color distribution, developing the image corresponding to the reacquired rendering command in the memory and outputting the developed image corresponding to the reacquired rendering command when it is determined that the object image is of the specific image type.

17. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 16, wherein when an object image considered to be identical to an object image determined to be of the specific type in a particular predetermined region is contained in the next predetermined region, a rendering command belonging to the next predetermined region is acquired and said determination and said acquisition of the color distribution are carried out.

18. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 16, further comprising the step of determining whether a plurality of object images determined to be the images of the specific type are identical or not, and carrying out the image correction process on the plurality of object images determined to be identical under an identical image correction condition.

19. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 18, wherein when the object image determined to be an image of the specific type is located on the border between said predetermined region and the next predetermined region, it is determined that the object image considered to be an identical image is contained in the next predetermined region.

20. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus for developing an image indicated by a rendering command of an input image in a memory for each predetermined region of the input image and thereby generating an output image, said apparatus comprising:

a rendering-command acquisition device configured to acquire a rendering command indicating an object image;

a rendering-command analyzer configured to analyze the acquired rendering command and to determine whether the object image is of a specific image type or not;

means for developing an image corresponding to the rendering command in the memory, for causing said rendering-command acquisition device to acquire a next rendering command, and for causing said rendering-command analyzer to carry out the determination of whether the object image is of a specific image type or not on the next rendering command when said rendering-command analyzer determines that the object image is not of the specific image type;

a color-distribution acquisition device configured to acquire a color distribution of the object image when said rendering-command analyzer determines that the object image is of the specific image type;

means for causing i) said rendering-command acquisition device to acquire the rendering command, ii) said rendering-command analyzer to determine whether the object image is of the specific image type, and iii) said developing means to develop the image corresponding to the rendering command for each predetermined region, when said rendering-command analyzer determines that the object image is not of the specific image type, and for causing said color-distribution acquisition device to carry out the acquisition of the color distribution for each predetermined region when said rendering-command analyzer determines that the object image is of the specific image type;

an output device configured to output the developed image which is developed in the memory when said rendering-command analyzer determines there is no object image of the specific image type in the predetermined region, and

means for causing said rendering-command acquisition device to reacquire the rendering command indicating the object image in the predetermined region, for carrying out an image correction process on the object image of the specific image type according to the acquired color distribution, for causing said developing means to develop the image corresponding to the reacquired rendering command in the memory, and for causing the output device to output the developed image corresponding to the reacquired rendering command when said rendering-command analyzer determines that the object image is of the specific image type.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium in which a program readable by a computer is recorded, the program instructing the computer to perform an image processing method for developing an image indicated by a rendering command of an input image in a memory for each predetermined region of the input image and thereby generating an output image, said method comprising the steps of:

acquiring a rendering command indicating an object image;

analyzing the rendering command and determining whether the object image is of a specific image type or not;

developing an image corresponding to the rendering command in the memory, acquiring a next rendering command, and carrying out said determination on the next rendering command

when it is determined that the object image is not of the specific image type;

acquiring a color distribution of the object image when it is determined that the object image is of the specific image type;

carrying out said acquisition of the rendering command, said determination of whether the object image is of the specific image type, and said development of the image corresponding to the rendering command for each predetermined region when it is determined that the object image is not of the specific image type and carrying out said acquisition of the color distribution for each predetermined region when it is determined that the object image is of the specific image type;

outputting the developed image which is developed in the memory when there is no object image of the specific image type in the predetermined region, and

reacquiring the rendering command indicating the object image in the predetermined region, carrying out an image correction process on the object image of the specific image type according to the acquired color distribution, developing the image corresponding to the reacquired rendering command in the memory and outputting the developed image corresponding to the reacquired rendering command when it is determined that the object image is of the specific image type.